

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 INR-07 OES-07 SS-15  
SP-02 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
EB-07 NRC-05 FEAE-00 DODE-00 ERDA-05 /099 W  
-----271841Z 085437 /43

P 271330Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0676  
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL MILAN PRIORITY

S E C R E T BUENOS AIRES 3914

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PARM, TECH, ENRG  
SUBJECT: ARGENTINE NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PILOT PLANT

REF: (A) STATE 108073, (B) ROME 8069

1. TECHINT IS INCORPORATED IN ARGENTINA. IT IS KNOWN HERE AS ONE OF MOST COMPETENT LOCAL ENGINEERING FIRMS. IT PROJECTS IMAGE OF BEING AN ARGENTINE FIRM, INVOLVED IN MANY OF COUNTRY'S MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS (E.G. ZARATE-BRAZO LARGO HIGHWAY AND RAIL BRIDGE COMPLEX OVER THE PARANA DELTA) AND AN EXPORTER OF "ARGENTINE TECHNOLOGY" (E.G. IT MANAGED THE OIL PIPELINE PROJECT OVER THE PERUVIAN ANDES).

2. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT TECHINT COULD SERVE AS A GENERAL CONTRACTOR AND BE INVOLVED IN OVERALL ENGINEERING AND DESIGN OF THE REPROCESSING PILOT PLANT, AS WELL AS SUPERVISION OF ITS CONSTRUCTION, ALL IN SOME SORT OF COLLABORATION WITH CNEA EXPERTS. IT WOULD NOT, REPEAT NOT, BE A LIKELY SUPPLIER, PER SE, OF HARDWARE.

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3. AS BEST WE CAN TELL, THERE IS SOME CONNECTION WITH ITALIAN TECHINT, BUT WE HAVE AS YET BEEN UNABLE TO DETERMINE DEGREE OF OWNERSHIP OF ARGENTINE COMPANY BY ITALIAN AND/OR VICE VERSA. TECHINT ARGENTINA WAS FORMED HERE BY A GROUP OF ITALIAN BUSINESSMEN, MOST PROMINENT OF WHOM WAS AUGSTIN ROCA. ROCA AND HIS ASSOCIATES ALSO FOUNDED OTHER COMPANIES IN ARGENTINA WHICH ARE

PART OF THE SO-CALLED TECHINT GROUP -- I.E. DALMINE-SIDERCA, COMETARSA, AND PROPULSORA SIDERURGICA, FIRMS IN THE STEEL AND METAL FABRICATION BUSINESS.

4. WHAT IS ALSO NOT, REPEAT NOT, CLEAR TO US IS (A) EXTENT TO WHICH ITALIAN TECHINT POSSESSES REPROCESSING KNOW-HOW; AND (B) WHAT, IF ANY OF THAT KNOW-HOW, IF POSSESSED, WOULD BE INTENDED TO BE APPLIED THROUGH TECHINT ARGENTINA ON THIS PROJECT.

5. FYI: TECHINT IS ONE OF SEVERAL COMPANIES LIKELY TO BE INCLUDED IN A CONSORTIUM TO HELP DESIGN AND BUILD THE ATUCHA 2 NUCLEAR POWER PLANT FOR CNEA, ASSUMING THAT PROJECT GOES AHEAD.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009